

To be paid by the taxable citizens of Baltimore into the State Treasury, for no other reason whatever except that the costs accruing in the criminal cases were largely in excess of the sum necessary to defray the expenses of administering criminal justice in Baltimore. The undersigned think that this presents a case in which the "expenses, costs and charges" of one of the Courts under the general supervision of the Judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore city, ought to be reported to the General Assembly with a view to a change or a reduction thereof. That reduction might be effected either by a review of the items constituting these costs, and reducing each in the proportion necessary to bring the aggregate down to a sum only sufficient to pay the expenses of the various offices above named; or a more compendious and equally efficacious mode would be to allow the several officers referred to, to collect from the City Register only so much of their respective bills against the city as may be necessary to supply the deficiency in the expenses of their offices, which may be left after applying to such expenses the receipts from other quarters than the city.

By the same Article of the Constitution, it is made the duty of the Judges to appoint such officers for their respective Courts as may be found necessary, and of the General Assembly to prescribe by law a fixed compensation for all such officers. Under the existing laws applicable to the *Bailiffs* of the Courts, those officers are paid a *per diem* upon the certificate of the Clerks of the Courts in which they respectively serve, and perhaps, as to them, no further regulation may be needed, but the legislation applicable to the *Criers* in the Courts of the City of Baltimore is unequal and ought to be amended. Thus the Criers of the Superior Court, and of the Court of Common Pleas, each receive from the City Treasury a stated annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars, by the provisions of the 135th section of the 4th Article of the Public Local Code; whilst the Clerks of the Criminal Court and of the City Court have no legislative provision made for their payment, except their fees of office. The consequence of this is, that the Crier of the Criminal Court receives \$3,000 for the performance of a merely ministerial duty, not greater or more responsible than that performed by the Criers of the other Courts, whilst the Crier of the City Court, under the application of the same mode of payment, will receive a compensation so trifling as to be altogether inadequate to the office.

Under a sense of duty which the undersigned do not feel at liberty to disregard, they respectfully report this as an expense of Court which ought to be amended by abolishing the Criers' fees in the Courts of the City of Baltimore, and bring-